

Testimony in Support of HB 418

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Daughter of Horse Ranchers**

I support HB 418. I believe that horse owners should have a choice as to what they do with their horses, which are considered personal property by the Federal Government. If someone chooses not to proceed with processing their horses, that is fine. If they have the resources available to them, then maybe an owner can euthanize their horse, put it in a sanctuary or release it to another owner. However, with the numbers of unwanted horses increasing a solution needs to be addressed. Horses that are being turned loose are those that have lived in stalls all their lives and when thrown to the elements in the wild they cannot adjust and therefore starve, die of disease or the effects of predators.

People tried with good intentions to ban horse processing in the hopes of saving the animal. This plan has backfired and what was initially a grand theory has now put much of the horse population in greater jeopardy than it has ever faced before. The old, infirm, and dangerous horse's value has fallen to nearly nothing, but the cost of keeping them has remained the same or rose higher. Horse owners deserve the right to choose. The option to make this decision should be available.